

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **Mitsuo CHIHARA**

Serial No.: **10/032,708**

Group Art Unit: **2161**

Filed: **January 2, 2002**

Examiner: **Not Yet Assigned**

For: **INDIVIDUAL AUTHENTICATION METHOD AND THE SYSTEM**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Date: April 16, 2002

Sir:

This is a Preliminary Amendment for the above-captioned patent application. Please amend the above-captioned patent application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend Claims 4, 6, 8 and 9 as follows:

4. (Amended) An individual authentication method according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein answers to the questions are prepared in a multiple choice system.

6. (Amended) An individual authentication method according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein one or both of the question and the response thereto is made by voice.

8. (Amended) An individual authentication method according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the database relating to the personal identification number and the database relating to personal information are managed respectively by separate and independent computers, and the information communication between these databases is protected from unauthorized external access.

9. (Amended) An individual authentication method according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein a single question contains a plurality of mutually relating elements of the personal information, so that one meaningful event is represented with the question by combining such plurality of elements.

**REMARKS**

Claims 4, 6, 8 and 9 have been amended to correct improper multiple dependent claims.

The above amendments are believed to place the claims in proper condition for examination.

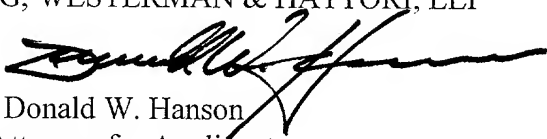
Early and favorable action is awaited.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with markings to show changes made."**

In the event that any fees are due in connection with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Enclosure: Version with markings to show changes made

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE (10/032,708)**

Claims 4, 6, 8 and 9 have been amended as follows:

4. (Amended) An individual authentication method according to [any one of] claim[s] 1 [to 3] or 2, wherein answers to the questions are prepared in a multiple choice system.
6. (Amended) An individual authentication method according [any one of] to claim[s] 1 [to 5] or 2, wherein one or both of the question and the response thereto is made by voice.
8. (Amended) An individual authentication method according to [any one of] claim[s] 1 [to 7] or 2, wherein the database relating to the personal identification number and the database relating to personal information are managed respectively by separate and independent computers, and the information communication between these databases is protected from unauthorized external access.
9. (Amended) An individual authentication method according to [any one of] claim[s] 1 [to 8] or 2, wherein a single question contains a plurality of mutually relating elements of the personal information, so that one meaningful event is represented with the question by combining such plurality of elements.